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**Good weekend on the beach,  
FIRST FRIDAY!**

*7/29/24*

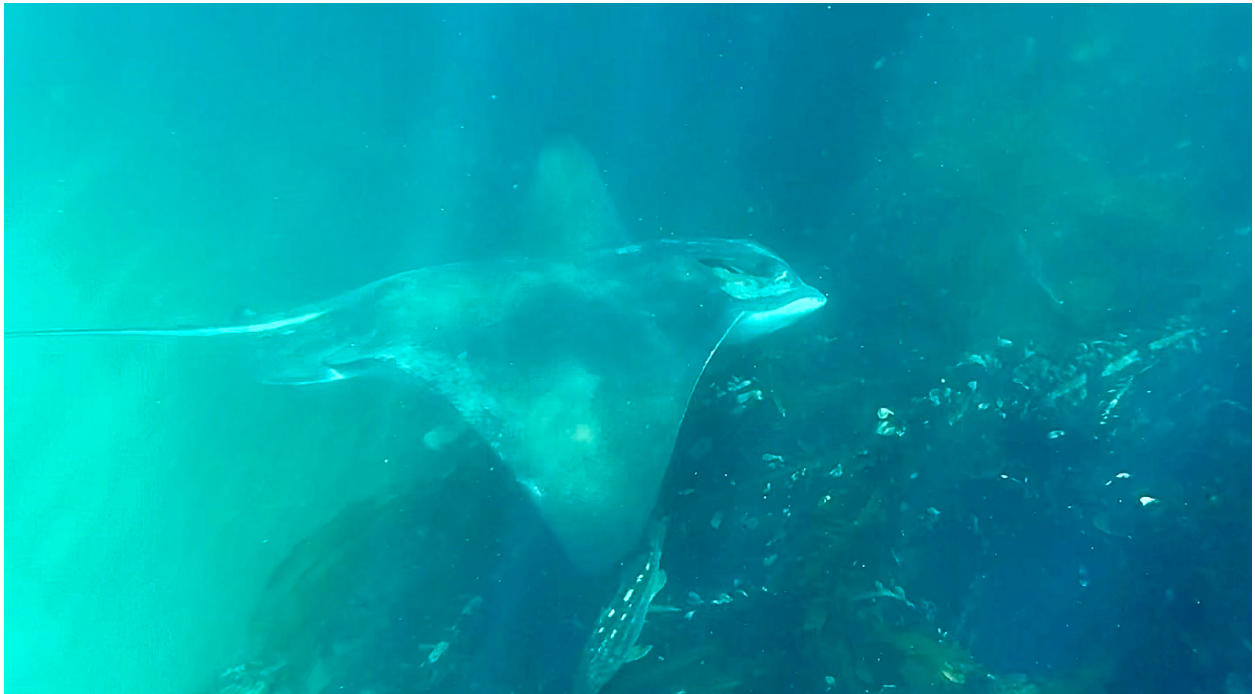


photo by William Moore!

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**1) Weekend Viral Instagram crowd:** A big nothing burger.... Basically maybe 10 people over a few hours on Saturday and a few more Sunday but they got nothing to perpetuate the attention so hopefully, that is the end of it.

The city came through in spades -The efforts of Lt Schmidt and predominately Lt Farris were everything that could and should be done against the possibility that a large number of people did manage to make their way here with the purpose of causing and capturing “content”.

Extra police were called in to be available if needed, 3 decoy police vehicles were parked at the entrances to the beach, patrol officers were present on the beach all weekend, the beach was checked at night, and we had very good lines of communication and help as needed. Parking/Traffic patrols kept an eye on any problems and illegal parking (I got a ticket!!! -more on that below...)

Everything worked out ok and I can't imagine a more supportive response from the city and specifically, our police department. Thanks.

**2) First Friday / Meet & Greet with our police:** As usual, 5:30, bring something to share and hang out with all the good humans in the area! In deference to the recent notariety, we will move the event to down by the volleyball court. I'll find the property lines so we can make sure we keep any booze off the public beach, etc..

Lt Farris (and I think Lt Schmidt) will be able to join us by around 6:30 to answer any questions, take input, and inform us of what they are doing these days relative to the various concerns many of us have in a number of directions. They are the watch commanders for our department and as such are the managers of what and how things get done in town so should be very informative. Both are very long term members of the police force and our town. I'll let them tell you about their history and experience base but it is substantial and highly encouraging. Don't miss it!

**3) Diver Dave's Parking Ticket:** How to think about this.... Turns out to be a pretty relevant topic in a bunch of ways. This is the intersection of wanting laws to be enforced for all the things we trip over and wanting some leniency when dealing with locals for all the stuff we do that really isn't a problem for us.

This actually gets a bit deep and is tough to find the productive ways to hold and act on it from all directions! Let's take my case: My usual parking area is at the intersection of 4 streets, all coming from odd angles, including 2 one way streets. If I park the way the I usually do, everything is super easy and flows with little effort or issue. If I park the way my ticket indicates I should, both parking and leaving requires 3 and 4 point turns that temporarily block pretty much every one of those streets in some part of the process.

And to add insult to possibly perceived injury, I've been parking that way for 30 years! AND there hasn't been any issue with doing that as far as I know....

Now I get a ticket, well..... about that: Classic case of I have been asking and asking for more parking patrols! And we are now up to 4 full time people as well as adding several part time people for this purpose. This is as much or more than we have ever had. Still pretty thin considering they have to have shifts to cover 7 days a week, and deal with the whole city, etc. but it is not being short-changed in resources.

These people (and all police force) are mandated to enforce the law. While they have wide discretion, they are required to enforce however the law is stated.

And I'm going to go off on a bit of a tangent here about how a super critical element of a functional justice system is that it has to be blind as to who it is enforced against. The discretion that is allowed has to do with the individual circumstance and the officer's assessment of what is required to obtain effective compliance in that circumstance.... Independent of who that person is, independent of race, culture, gender, resident or visitor. There is simply no allowance in the laws we trip over unless it is stated within the law.

Soooo, here is the thing -The letter of the law is that my car was absolutely parked the wrong way. I'll pay the ticket and be ok with the fact that regardless of the specific issues I have. As it is, there is no reason to have issue with the officer's interpretation or implementation of the law.

The fix is to investigate what it takes to change the situation (if possible) so that the parking fits both the law and the practical considerations of those spots.

This goes for the dog leash laws as well. There are officers on the beach early in the morning to check for people sleeping on the beach but if they see something, they really have no choice but to interact. As much as we would like them to ignore it if not looking like an issue, there are people that watch the beach that are all over calling in for leash violations, and complaining if they don't see something done - dammed if they do or don't situation....

I have no idea if it is practical but the bottom line is that leash laws are municipal code and if we want to change the situation, the fix is to change the code! Maybe a residence carve out, maybe a wording change so only if there is an immediate issue observed, etc.. Bottom line is that it is really not fair or practical to ask the police to selectively enforce laws -so change the law!

PS: Just to give some extra perspective, one of my police contacts told me his story of several times through the years here of personally having gotten some parking tickets -And these were given by people that he knew very well. I suspect there was some level of chagrin but the tickets were paid without fuss -and for all the reasons above. Literally, no one is or should be above the law....

**4) Graffiti:** There was some graffiti under the bridge and also on the "No Vehicular Access" signs at the top of Dumond. I didn't see these at first but other people did.... The public works department has an excellent graffiti removal team so just call into the non-emergency number and report it -or write into the "Ask Laguna" on the city website. Done and Gone! (or mention it to me.... ;)

**5) CC&R Trashcans etc.:**

laguna beach customer service line: for CC&R number 949-662-3819

**6) Drug drop-off packages:** This was a new one for me. A neighbor saw on video a package dropped off that was a pretty dilapidated and partially open cardboard box. A very short time later, someone else stopped and took the package.... A new way of selling drugs apparently. Not much to be done about it but FYI and it is happening here.

**7) Hot air balloon launch:** One of our neighbors saw a large balloon ascend from around the Pirates Tower about 2 weeks ago at night with an open fire in it. It went up and FORTUNATELY drifted over the ocean. It was a hot air balloon. I've not seen this before but SUPER dangerous. Call it in immediately if you see anything like this!!!!!!

**8) Social Hours:** Wednesday 5:30-whenever at Dizz's -usually a few neighbors hanging out. And Thursdays at Mozambique for some music.

**9) Whale Watching:** SUPER fun thing to do. about \$85 for 2 hours or so. Newport Coastal Adventures in Newport has great go-fast boats, Captain Dave in Dana has a bit larger fast boat as well as more comfortable larger boat better for small kids, older people, etc.. Both do great plus another option in Dana. Call me if you want to put together something with a few like-minded neighbors!

Police Non-Emergency: **949-497-0701 x2**

Newsletter subscribe and Webpage: **[www.vicbch.com](http://www.vicbch.com)**

Water hitting 70 again and really trying to be clear!! Had a 20ft visibility day a few days ago!!!!

That's all for now!!!

Diver Dave signing off :)

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